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INDEPENDENT LENS CONTINUES WITH A DIVERSE SPRING SLATE OF DOCUMENTARIES DEBUTING ON PBS BEGINNING APRIL 8

Upcoming Films in the Flagship ITVS Anthology Series Include Stanley Nelson's Look at the History of Funk Music with Musical Legends, an Examination of the U.S. Public Library System, and the Final Installment of the "Matter of Mind" Series

(San Francisco, CA) February 1, 2025—INDEPENDENT LENS, the Emmy® Award-winning PBS documentary anthology series presented by ITVS, today announced the diverse slate of films rounding out the season, which is set to debut this spring beginning April 8, 2025. The documentaries featured this spring offer a captivating exploration of humanity, from the vibrant world of funk music and the heart of public libraries to the pressing challenges of Alzheimer's. It also delves into the personal journey of one of the most iconic and obscure photographers and provides a thought-provoking glimpse into the complexities of Philippine politics.

"This spring, INDEPENDENT LENS looks to inspire you," said Lois Vossen, executive producer. "The story of funk music will make you get up and dance. The history and legacy of public libraries remind us why our country endorsed free education. We celebrate the work of caregivers who provide for loved ones with Alzheimer's and the groundbreaking art of an Asian American photographer celebrates a community and a culture. Prepare to be encouraged."

The spring series kicks off on April 8 with the celebratory and star-studded "WE WANT THE FUNK!" featuring some of the most iconic musical legends, including James Brown, George Clinton, Questlove, David Bowie, and Elton John. Directed by Stanley Nelson and co-directed and produced by Nicole London, the documentary delves into the funk genre's influence on contemporary music, fashion, freedom of expression, and its role in the rise of hip-hop.

On April 29, INDEPENDENT LENS features one of America's most beloved institutions: the public library. "Free for All: The Public Library" explores the

U.S. public library system, a simple idea that shaped a nation. On May 5, the third and final installment of the informative *Matter of Mind* series, which examines neurodegenerative diseases, spotlights Alzheimer's in "Matter of Mind: My Alzheimer's." "Who is Michael Jang?" will premiere on May 12 and chronicles the work of the elusive street photographer at a flashpoint in his career, and on May 19, closing out the season will be the 2024 Sundance selection, "And So It Begins," which looks at the Philippines' no-holds-barred race for president in 2022 as the nation fights for its soul.

- **WE WANT THE FUNK! - April 8** - "WE WANT THE FUNK!" is a syncopated voyage through the history of funk music, spanning from African, soul, and early jazz roots, to its rise into the public consciousness. Featuring James Brown's dynamism, the extraterrestrial funk of George Clinton's Parliament-Funkadelic, transformed girl group Labelle, and Fela Kuti's Afrobeat, the story also traces funk's influences on both new wave and hip-hop.
- **FREE FOR ALL: THE PUBLIC LIBRARY - April 29** - "Free for All: The Public Library" tells the story of the quiet revolutionaries who made a simple idea happen. From the pioneering women behind the "Free Library Movement" to today's librarians who service the public despite working in a contentious age of closures and book bans, meet those who created a civic institution where everything is free and the doors are open to all.
- **MATTER OF MIND: MY ALZHEIMER'S - May 5** - "Matter of Mind: My Alzheimer's" is an intimate portrayal of three families confronting the unique challenges of Alzheimer's and how this progressive neurodegenerative disease transforms roles and relationships. Whether it's a partner becoming a caregiver or an adult child shifting into being their parent's caretaker, these stories show how families evolve when a loved one is diagnosed.
- **AND SO IT BEGINS - May 12** - "And So It Begins" follows the Philippines' turbulent 2022 presidential race, with the son of ousted former dictator Ferdinand Marcos waging a combative social media campaign against his more progressive opponent, incumbent Vice President Leni Robredo. Following it all is independent journalist and Nobel Prize-winner Maria Ressa, with an eye toward the specter of increasing autocracy.

- **WHO IS MICHAEL JANG? - May 19** - After a long career as a commercial and portrait photographer, mischievous San Francisco artist Michael Jang sat for decades on a hidden treasure of pictures taken in his 20s—both candid celebrity shots and a down-to-earth cross-section of Chinese American family life rarely captured so playfully. Then, during the pandemic, Jang set out to share his work with the world, street guerilla-style.

All films will also be available to stream on the [PBS app](#) following premiere day. Visit the INDEPENDENT LENS [website](#) for more information.

ABOUT INDEPENDENT LENS

INDEPENDENT LENS is an Emmy® Award-winning PBS documentary series. With founding executive producer Lois Vossen, the series has been honored with 10 Academy Award nominations and features documentaries united by the creative freedom, artistic achievement, and unflinching visions of independent filmmakers. Presented by ITVS, INDEPENDENT LENS is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Acton Family Giving, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Ford Foundation, Park Foundation, Wyncote Foundation, and National Endowment for the Arts. Stream anytime on the PBS app. For more visit pbs.org/independentlens

ABOUT ITVS

Independent Television Services (ITVS) is the largest co-producer of independent documentaries in the United States. For more than 30 years the San Francisco non-profit has funded and partnered with documentary filmmakers to produce and distribute untold stories. ITVS incubates and co-produces these award-winning titles and premieres them on our Emmy® Award-winning PBS series, INDEPENDENT LENS. ITVS titles appear on PBS, WORLD, NETA, and can be streamed on various digital platforms including the PBS app. ITVS is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Acton Family Giving, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Ford Foundation, The Park Foundation, Wyncote Foundation. For more information, visit itvs.org.

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